

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-05

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 L-03 NSF-01

NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-06 SS-15 SP-02

FEAE-00 INT-05 PA-01 PRS-01 HUD-01 ARA-06 /103 W

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R 100904Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4856

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANILA 6446

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, UN

SUBJECT: UN CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT)

REF: STATE 108167

1. ON MAY 10 EMBOFFS CALLED ON DFA ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR UN AFFAIRS VERCELES TO DISCUSS UPCOMING VANCOUVER CONFERENCE AND PROVIDED HIM POSITION PAPER BASED ON REFTEL. VERCELES EMPHASIZED THAT UNIVERSITY OF PHILIPPINES PRESIDENT O.D. CORPUZ AND DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY OF THE PHILIPPINES VICE PRESIDENT CONRADO BENITEZ WERE MRS. MARCOS' ACTION OFFICERS FOR VANVCOUVER SESSION. VERCELES IS STILL NOT SURE WHETHER HE WILL BE GOING TO VANCOUVER. HE PROMISED TO MAKE POSITION PAPER AVAILABLE TO CORPUZ AND BENITEZ AND GIVE US THEIR REACTIONS.

2. REACTING TO QUESTIONS RAISED REFTEL, VERCELS SAID GOP HOPED THAT POLITICAL MATTERS WOULD NOT BE INTRODUCED BUT ONLY TIME WOULD TELL. HE HAD NOT SEEN SECRETARIAT DRAFT OF DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES SINCE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION IN NEW YORK HAD NOT SENT IT. THEREFORE, HE

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WAS UNABLE TO COMMENT NOW BUT WOULD LOOK INTO QUESTION.

ON INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, VERCELES SAID GOP AGREES THAT CONSOLIDATION IS IN ORDER BUT THINKS DISCUSSION ON ACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS PRIOR TO SESSION IN VANCOUVER IS SOMEWHAT PREMATURE. SPEAKING FROM HIS YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AS SECOND MAN IN GOP DELEGATION TO UN, VERCELES NOTED THERE WERE VESTED INTERESTS SEEKING TO MAINTAIN CENTER FOR HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING AS SEPARATE ENTITY. VERCELES SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT CENTER SHOULD BE CONSOLIDATED UNDER THE HUMAN HABITAT AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS FOUNDATION WHICH HAD, HE SAID, TAKEN ON MORE SIGNIFICANCE THAN CENTER. HE ADDED POINTEDLY THAT MRS. MARCOS HAS OFFERED \$1.0 MILLION TO HABITAT FOUNDATION. ASKED ABOUT SITE OF SECRETARIAT FOR CONSOLIDATED ORGANIZATION, VERCELES NOTED THAT MEXICO HAD OFFERED SITE. PHILIPPINE WAS ALSO OFFERING MANILA AS SITE FOR SECRETARIAT AND, ALTHOUGH THIS GOP POSITION HAS NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED PUBLICALLY, MRS. MARCOS' CONTRIBUTION SHOULD BE READ IN THAT LIGHT. VERCELES SAID THAT GOP FULLY SUBSCRIBES TO DESIRABILITY OF CONCENTRATING MORE HABITAT ACTIVITIES AT REGIONAL LEVEL.

3. COMMENT: AS FOREGOING INDICATES, HABITAT IS VERY MUCH MRS. MARCOS' "BABY" (GUIDED PRESS IS NOW HAILING HER AS WORLD'S "FIRST LADY OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS"). DFA HAS BEEN BROUGHT INTO PICTURE ONLY PERIPHERALLY. WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE GOP PREFERS THAT POLITICAL QUESTIONS NOT BE INSINUATED INTO HABITAT DELIBERATIONS. WE HAVE STRONG IMPRESSION GOP WILL MAKE MAJOR PITCH FOR MANILA AS SITE OF HABITAT SECRETARIATE IF IT CAN SOMEHOW WORK THIS OUT AMICABLY WITH MEXICANS AND OTHER CONTENDERS. WE SHALL REPORT FURTHER WHEN MRS. MARCOS' HABITAT EXPERTS HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO REACT TO SUBSTANCE OF U.S. POSITION AS CONVEYED REFTEL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HOUSING, URBAN DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING MEETINGS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANILA06446
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760179-0979
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760572/aaaacjzd.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 108167
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UN CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT)
TAGS: SENV, SOCI, RP, XX, CA, UN, HABITAT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006